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peg or post 28' remains within the elongate slot or opening or hole 33' at all times thereby limiting movement of the needle holding member 30 to a length of the slot or opening or hole 33' and assuring that the needle holding member 30 is retained within the channel 26 of the housing 20. Also, positioning of the peg or post 28' within the slot or opening or hole 33' will not allow axial rotation of the needle holding member 30.---

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bui for conducting the March 30, 2001 interview at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. During the interview, Applicants' representative provided a summary of the claims pending in the present application.

Additionally, during the interview, Examiner Bui agreed with Applicants' representative that the terms "post" and "elongated hole" could be used to indicate the same items as the recitations "peg" and "slot" in the specification. Examiner Bui suggested that the application should be amended to provide positive support for these terms. Furthermore, during a follow-up telephone conversation, Examiner Bui agreed that the present application provided adequate support for "elongated opening" for essentially the same reasons that the present application provides support for "elongated hole". Accordingly, the specification is being amended herein to merely provide alternative language forms for the disclosed features, such as by amending the specification to

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indicate that "slot", "elongated hole", and "elongated opening" are interchangeable, and that "peg" and "post" are interchangeable.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

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MARKED-UP COPY OF CHANGES TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 with the following new paragraph:

---Turning to Fig. 8, an alternative embodiment of the stopper system includes an elongate slot (also referred to as elongate opening and elongate hole) 33' disposed in the distal segment 32 of the needle holding member 30. The slot or opening or hole is positioned such that a peg (also referred to as post) 28' which extends from an interior of the housing 20 passes therethrough. The peg or post 28' remains within the elongate slot or opening or hole 33' at all times thereby limiting movement of the needle holding member 30 to a length of the slot or opening or hole 33' and assuring that the needle holding member 30 is retained within the channel 26 of the housing 20. Also, positioning of the peg or post 28' within the slot or opening or hole 33' will not allow axial rotation of the needle holding member 30.---